

In the claims

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A system for providing data validation service on requests from applications running a plurality of software protocols, the system comprising:

a data network;

an application server, the application server in communication with the data network to receive data within validation requests for validation of the initial form of the data and wherein the application server compares the initial form of the data to a reference and returns an indication of valid or invalid based on whether the initial form matches the reference;

at least one application that utilizes the data in a particular form corresponding to the reference, the application in communication with the application server, the application providing validation requests and data in the initial form to the application server via the data network;

one or more open application programming interfaces, the one or more application programming interfaces capable of handling a plurality of software protocols and in communication with the application server and said applications; and

a data schema in communication with said data network, for storing validation functions, and accessible by said application server, wherein said application server processes the validation requests and returns a response of valid or invalid to the applications according to said validation functions stored in said data schema for comparing the initial form of the data to the reference.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 31, wherein said data schema comprises a database.

33. (Original) A system according to claim 31, wherein said validation functions are stored in the format of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

34. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 32, wherein said database

contains a table-based system of rules organized into hierarchically-organized views.

35. (Original) A system according to claim 33, wherein said schema in the form of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol represents a table-based system of rules organized into hierarchically-organized views.

36. (Previously Presented) A system for providing an application service, the system comprising:

means for receiving a service request from a customer, wherein the customer requests a validation service to determine whether data in an initial form is valid or invalid based on whether the initial form matches a reference that corresponds to and couples data to said system in the form of hashtables;

means for sending a validation request instruction to an application server corresponding to data in the initial form to be validated;

means for sending a service request from the application server to a database, the service request based at least in part on the validation request;

means for performing hierarchically-based validation services on the data that is in the initial form by comparing the initial form of the data to the reference;

means for remotely updating said database based on current validation requirements of said system;

means for sending a validation result including the indication of whether the data is valid or invalid based on whether the initial form matched the reference from the application server to said customer based at least in part on the validation request; and

means for providing a response to said system from said customer in response to said validation result.

37. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions adapted to be executed by a processor for providing an application service, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

receive a service request from a customer data device, the customer data device including data that is in an initial form to be validated by determining whether the initial

form of the data matches a reference corresponding to a particular form utilized by the customer data device;

generate a service session instruction, the service session instruction based at least in part on the service request;

send the service session instruction to one or more open application programming interfaces, the service session instruction corresponding to one or more data validation requests from said customer data device;

perform one or more validation functions based on stored rules in a database by comparing the initial form of the data to the reference; and

send a validation service response to the customer data device that includes the indication of valid or invalid based on whether the initial form of the data matched the reference, the validation service response based on the service request.

38. (Previously Presented) A medium according to claim 37, wherein said database comprises a database and further comprises an instruction to load said database into a memory upon startup of said application service.

39. (Original) A medium according to claim 37, wherein said validation functions are stored in the format of Lightweight Directory Access Protocol and further comprise an instruction to load said database into a memory upon startup of said application service.

40. (Previously Presented) A method of providing validation data service with a client-server computer system comprising the steps of:

coupling a data validation request between a client application server and an application server, the data validation request including data in an initial form that is compared to a reference that corresponds to a particular form used by the client application server;

providing data validation service request instructions to a data schema in response to said validation request coupled between said client application server and said application server;

retrieving a plurality of hierarchical dynamically maintained validation rules from

a centralized storage mass coupled to said application server, the validation rules for comparing the initial form of the data to the reference;

    updating said validation rules;

    validating data in accordance with said validation rules; and

    coupling a response that includes an indication of valid or invalid based on whether the initial form of the data matched the reference to said client application server.

41. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an application service, the method comprising:

    a step for sending a data validation service request from a user, the data validation service request including data in an initial form;

    a step for generating a validation service instruction, the service instruction based at least in part on a validation service request from said user;

    a step for sending the service instruction to one or more data storage schemas via one or more application programming interfaces, the service instruction corresponding to one or more validation requests from the user;

    a step for dynamically updating a table of validation rules stored in said one or more data schemas based on changes to the application service;

    a step for calling up at least one table of validation rules from said one or more data storage;

    a step for performing validation functions on data in accordance with updated validation rules stored in said table and the validation request from said user to compare the initial form of the data to a reference corresponding to a particular form used by the user; and,

    a step for sending service response that includes an indication of valid or invalid based on whether the initial form of the data matched the reference to the user requesting validation service.